

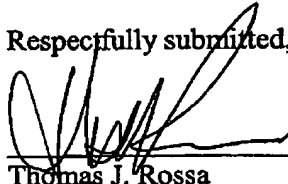
CONCLUSION

Earlier, Applicant has cancelled all previously pending claims and added new claims 10-14. Applicant now amends claims 10 and adds new claims 16 and 16. Early action and allowance is respectfully requested for all pending claims.

Please charge any fees not accompanying this communication that may be required to deposit account 08-2665.

If there are questions, the Examiner can reach applicants' counsel at (801) 521-5800 or by e-mail at rossat@HRO.com.

Respectfully submitted,



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JESSOP, *et al.*

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For: **PIPETTE TIP PACKAGING AND TRANSFER SYSTEM**

Group Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: HANDY, D.

Atty. File No.: 45825-01012

ATTACHMENT TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS

The following paragraphs show corrections in the traditional format with [bracketed] material to be deleted and underlined material to be added.

Paragraph, Page 8, lines 3-19

FIG. 4 illustrates a storage and transfer portion of the pipette tip packaging and transfer system of the present invention, including receiving plate 20 and transfer member 30. As shown, pipette tips 24 can be stacked vertically atop of one another by introducing pipette tips 24 into receiving plate 20 and aligning the distal tip 29 of each

pipette tip 24 over and into top openings 26 of pipette tips 24 located in an underlying receiving plate 20. A first assembly 21 consisting of the uppermost receiving plate 20A and pipette tips 24A is formed. Receiving plates 20B and 20C are each formed into assemblies 23 and 25 respectively by placing pipette tips 24 A into pipette tips 20B. The assemblies 21, 23 [,] and 25 are then all stacked as shown. When stacked, the bottom surface 27 of receiving plate [20] 20A rests on the shoulder 29 (FIG. [5] 4) above the annular portions 39 of proximal portion 28 which are formed to have top opening 26. In this fashion, multiple stacks of pipette tips 24 contained within receiving plate 20 can be stacked vertically to form a compact assembly of pipette tips 24 when those holding trays are stacked atop of one another. Stabilization of the pipette tips 24 during the alignment and stacking process is accomplished by first lowering transfer member 30 onto the proximal end 28 of each pipette tip 24, such that [each projection] all projections or bosses 34 on transfer member 30 [is] are inserted into top openings 26 of pipette tips 24.

Paragraph, Page 8, lines 20-29 (bottom of page)

FIGS. 5 and 6 illustrate two preferred embodiments of the transfer member projections engaged to a pipette tip on a receiving plate. In FIG. 5, a projection or [bosses] boss 44 having a substantially uniform cross-section or diameter throughout its length 43 is illustrated. [Event thought] Even though the [bosses] boss is shown to be essentially cylindrical in form, it should be understood that projection or [bosses] boss 44 may be of a variety of suitable lengths, widths, diameters and shapes. Indeed, the bosses may [event] even be tapered from the surface 31 toward the distal end 45 so that entry of the bosses 44 into the [opening] openings 26 is facilitated and will yield a snug fit along its length 43. That is, the bosses 44 [is] are shaped to snugly register in

the aperture 26 so that the diameter 47 of [projection] projections or bosses 44 is preferably equal to or slightly less than the diameter of the aperture 26.

IN THE CLAIMS

10. (Amended New Claim) A method for transferring a plurality of pipette tips from a container to a holding tray, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a stack of receiving plates and a plurality of pipette tips [in a container],

each of said pipette tips having a first end and a second end spaced from said first end, said first end having an opening extending into said pipette tip[.];

providing a container, said container having a volume to hold a first receiving plate of said stack of receiving plates with a first plurality of pipette tips of said plurality of pipette tips disposed in a first pattern thereon and a second receiving plate of said stack of receiving plates with a second plurality of pipette tips of said plurality of pipette tips disposed in [said first] a second pattern thereon and arranged with at least a portion of said second plurality to be nested into the openings of said first plurality of pipette tips, said container including a base having a length and a width, a pair of opposing side walls and a pair of opposing end walls arranged to define said volume, said side walls each having a cut-out portion formed therein sized and positioned for user access to said stack of said receiving plates, said container further having support means positioned within said container proximate said base and connected to one of said side walls, said end walls and said base, said support means being positioned for elevating said first receiving plate above said base;

providing a transfer member that is shaped to fit within said container, said transfer member having an upper surface and a lower surface and a plurality of projections arranged in said first pattern to extend from said lower surface, each projection of said plurality of projections extending from said lower surface a preselected distance to affect stable engagement with a corresponding pipette tip when said projection is received into said opening of said pipette tip and is held therein by the user grasping both a receiving plate with said second plurality of pipette tips thereon and said transfer member positioned ;

providing a holding tray positioned on a support surface, said holding tray having an upper wall spaced from said support surface and a tray plurality of apertures extending through said upper wall and arranged to receive pipette tips in said first pattern and said second pattern;

grasping said transfer member with the thumb and forefinger of a user and positioning said transfer member over said container;

aligning the projections of said transfer member with the openings of said second plurality of pipette tips;

lowering said transfer member into said container until said projections extend into and engage with said second plurality of pipette tips;

grasping both said transfer member and said second receiving plate with the thumb and forefinger of said user and removing said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips from said container;

positioning said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips over said holding tray such that said second plurality of pipette tips are aligned with said tray plurality of apertures of said holding tray;

lowering said transfer member, said second receiving plate and said second plurality of pipette tips toward said holding tray until said second plurality of pipette tips has been inserted into and engaged with corresponding apertures of said tray plurality of said holding tray; and removing said transfer member from said [second receiving plate and] said second plurality of pipette tips.

15. (New Claim) A transfer member for transferring an array of pipette tips mounted on a receiving plate to a holding tray, each of said pipette tips having an upper portion with an opening formed therein, said transfer member comprising:

a base having a upper surface and lower surface, said base being sized proximate the size of said receiving plate and configured to be positionable and holdable relative to said receiving plate only by a finger and thumb of a user; and

a plurality of projections arranged to extend away from said lower surface to register with a plurality of pipette tips of said array of pipette tips, each pipette tip of said array of pipette tips being configured to extend above each receiving plate a preselected distance and each projection of said plurality of projections being sized relative to the size of said opening to extend from said lower surface a preselected distance to snugly and slidably engage said opening of said pipette tip all to effect a stable relationship between said base and said receiving plate when said projections are received into said openings of said pipette tips of said array and are held therein only by the user compressively grasping both a receiving plate and said transfer member with and between the user's thumb and to effect separation of said base and said projections from said plurality of pipette tips solely upon movement of said base away from said plurality of pipette tips.

16. (New Claim) A transfer member for transferring an array of pipette tips mounted on a receiving plate to a holding tray, each of said pipette tips having an upper portion with an opening formed therein, said transfer member comprising:

a base having a upper surface and lower surface, said base being sized proximate the size of said receiving plate and configured to be positionable and holdable relative to said receiving plate without any mechanical structure;; and

a plurality of projections arranged to extend away from said lower surface to register with a plurality of pipette tips of said array of pipette tips, each pipette tip of said array of pipette tips being configured to extend above each receiving plate a preselected distance and each projection of said plurality of projections being sized relative to the size of said opening to extend from said lower surface a preselected distance to snugly and slidably engage said opening of said pipette tip all to effect a stable relationship between said base and said receiving plate when said projections are received into said openings of said pipette tips of said array and are held therein only by the user compressively grasping both a receiving plate and said transfer member with and between the user's thumb without any mechanical structure connecting said base and said receiving plate.